



The Lookout

Muir Woods Park Community Association

www.mounttam.org

August—October 2011

415/381-3119

Sewer Meeting Thursday, September 15th at 7:00 PM with Steve Kinsey and Rebecca Ng

Supervisor Steve Kinsey has kindly offered to come to our community for another neighborhood meeting at the MWPCA Clubhouse Thursday, September 15th. Rebecca Ng, Chief of the County's Environmental Health Services, will accompany him to summarize statewide efforts that could affect the neighborhood and to answer questions about her department's programs and approved technologies. Below is a copy of the most recent letter from Steve Kinsey. Hope to see you at the meeting. Also, see page 5 for Bill Daniels' report on neighbors using a new septic system.

- Lynn Hindley, Sewer Committee

July 15, 2011

Dear Muir Woods Park Association and community members,

I am writing you as a follow up to the community meeting held February 10, 2011, where the topic of that meeting was an update on the Muir Woods Park Association's proposal to provide sewers for the Muir Woods Park area. It was apparent to all who attended that a consensus on how to proceed had not been reached.

At the meeting I stated that when the CSW feasibility report was completed, I would come to the community for another neighborhood meeting and that I would make sure to inform you of the meeting date, time and place well in advance so that those wishing to attend would have ample notice. We have reserved the Association's clubhouse for a community meeting on September 15th 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Given the diversity of opinions about how to address the current situation regarding septic systems in your community, I have invited the Chief of the County's Environmental Health Services, Rebecca Ng, to attend. She will fill us in on statewide efforts that could affect your neighborhood and to answer questions about her department's programs and approved technologies. There will also be time for the Association to report the results of their study.

The meeting will be an important opportunity to consider issues associated with onsite waste treatment and available alternatives. It will not be a meeting where decisions are made, but I expect it to contribute to the important consideration that is underway. I remain committed to working with you to chart a course that increases public health in a manner that is affordable and respectful of the existing community character.

Steve Kinsey



Fourth District Supervisor
Marin County Board of Supervisors

MWPCA President's Report

Alex and Lynn Flint, new residents at 9 Ridge, recently joined the MWPCA. With them, membership has reached 121 households which tops last year's most-in-memory record of 120 households. Twenty-six of the 2011 members are new; we especially welcome you and hope you participate in our various activities. Those of you who haven't yet joined, please consider doing so.

Finances continue in excellent shape, with the balance sheet strong and many rentals booked for the remainder of the year.

Thanks to the Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station and Fire Safe Marin, with an assist from the MWPCA, we again this year had highly successful "Chipper Days" on Saturday/Sunday July 30/31. Vans and pickups scurried in and out of the lower parking lot to off-load green waste all day both



days. Considerable vegetation was also chipped from the MWPCA property. Thanks to Jean Sublett for bringing tasty goodies for the event, to Andy Lillestol for trimming the trees, and to Bob Graham for volunteering.

The Board has unanimously approved the main project for the year, which will be the repair and improvement of the driveways to the building and the lower parking lot. The main work consists of ripping up and re-working the major potholes, covering the driveways with road bed and compacting, then covering again with crushed rock and compacting. To help control future erosion, the job also includes digging a rounded cross-section ditch on the upper side of the main driveway and filling with crushed rock, and building "water bars" of compacted road bed angled across the driveway to direct water flow off the driveway.

- Peter Hindley

Board Meeting Highlights

Note: Complete MWPCA Board minutes are now posted online at: <http://www.mounttam.org>

Disaster Council Report

The Throckmorton Ridge Disaster Council met at the Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station Saturday, July 17th. The meeting was led by the our new Fire Captain, Jeremy Pierce, a 20-year veteran of the Marin County Fire Department and a Paramedic to boot. He is also the father of a two-year old and infant twins.

Defining a communications structure became a focal point of the meeting. Communication during an emergency is a primary component to planning for an effective and efficient emergency response. Given the topography of this area and the way that homes and streets connect with Panoramic, our main travel corridor, it will not be an easy task to communicate during an emergency. The communications team led off with some questions about how information was to be conveyed to the RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) installation at the firehouse. Information will need to flow from the neighborhoods to the firehouse, where it will be acted upon. Without a system in place, fire station personnel will be unable to respond effectively. Thus a structure of street liaisons reporting to captains in 7 areas who report to the firehouse is being created. CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) is being asked to help provide area captains for the seven defined areas of our community. Each area will need at least two captains. CERT training is preferable but not necessary.

Because Captain Pierce sees wildfire as our greatest risk, he plans to hold the first of three evacuation drills on Saturday October 22, 2011. The drill will consist of a practice evacuation of approximately 100 homes along Panoramic Highway and its side streets from Upper Edgewood as far down as Washington Park, directing them to the MWPCA clubhouse at 40 Ridge Avenue, our designated Red Cross shelter. CERT volunteers will be needed to assist the fire department, Sheriff's Department, Highway Patrol and other agencies, mainly with traffic control.

The next Disaster Council meeting will be held in September. A CERT meeting will follow to prepare for the drill.

- Virginia Soper and Susan Johnson

2nd Annual Informal BBQ at the Community Center Great Fun!

This year about 20 people enjoyed an informal lunch. Derrick Chan once again provided all the ribs and chicken we could eat (his gift!) and Scott McBirnie brought the sangria. What a party! The group size was ideal for catching up with neighbors at a leisurely pace. Think this is turning into an annual event.



New Senior Captain Jeremy Pierce at Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station

I have been appointed as the new Senior Captain of the Throckmorton Fire Station. I am currently assigned to "B" shift. I have been with the Marin County Fire Department for 19 years. Throughout my time with the department I have worked as a Paramedic, Paramedic/Engineer, Captain at the Woodacre Station, and now a Senior Captain at Throckmorton. I have been a member of the Marin County Urban Search and Rescue Team for the last 16 years as the Rescue Team Manager.



I look forward to an exciting chapter in my career in the fire service. I am very excited to be working with some very experienced and energetic firefighters at Throckmorton. On "A" shift there are Captain John Payne and Engineer Scott Pederson. "C" shift is Captain Toney Soule and Engineer Matt Chan.



Here's the "B" shift team (left to right): Engineer Don Keylon, Nick Pomo, Andrew Marty and myself, Senior Captain Jeremy Pierce.

Additionally, we have Firefighters Ian

Hanson, Andrew Marty, Ryan Mahony, William Kelly, Nick Pomo, and George Krakauer. We welcome the public to stop by the fire station and meet the personnel. Thank you.

- Jeremy Pierce
Senior Captain
Throckmorton Ridge
388-5414

Important Phone Numbers

Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station

Non-emergency 415 388-5414

Sheriff Department

Non-emergency 415-332-5422

Cell Phone call to 911 within Marin County

Local dispatch 415 472-0911

Evacuation Drill Planned on October 22

The Marin County Fire Department in conjunction with the Marin County Sheriff's department, MWPCA, Disaster Council, State Parks, and the Marin Municipal Water District will be conducting a live Evacuation Drill. We ask citizens to participate in this drill to allow all of the agencies involved to practice coordination. It will be a great opportunity for the citizens on the Throckmorton Ridge to become familiar with disaster plans and emergency workers in the area.

The drill will be conducted on Oct. 22nd and detailed information will be mailed to the residents of Throckmorton Ridge prior to the event.

The area of evacuation will be limited to specific streets: Upper Edgewood, Marin View, Annie Lane, Mountain View, Hamilton, Washington Park, Mountain Lane Trail, Panoramic Highway between Washington Park and Upper Edgewood.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES —Have these items on hand and ACCESSIBLE

Survival

1. **Food** that doesn't require refrigeration, little cooking, and doesn't increase thirst. 5 – day supply per person.
2. **Water** 1 gallon / person / day
3. **Warmth** Adequate dry clothing, sleeping bags, coats, shoes, etc.
4. **Light** Flashlights, lanterns, batteries
5. **Communications** radio, cell phone
6. **Cash** small bills

Medical

First Aid Kit. Store All **medicines** in sufficient quantity and in an accessible container. Extra **eyeglasses**

Sanitation

Personal hygiene needs, toilet paper, waste liners, portable toilet, soap, disinfectant, bleach for water.

Search and Rescue tools

Flashlights, batteries, gloves, crowbar, axe, duct tape, hammers, nails, pliers, tarps, goggles, etc.

Water Purification Procedure

Add liquid bleach with chlorine bleach as its sole ingredient.

Wait 30 minutes. Water should have a **slight chlorine smell**; if not, **repeat dosage and wait 15 minutes.**

Chlorine bleach for cloudy water:

1 gallon 16 drops
5 gallons 1 teaspoon

Chlorine Bleach for clear water:

1 gallon 8 drops
5 gallons ½ teaspoon

- Susan Johnson
Safety Committee

The Delicate Balance

Imagine grizzly and black bears, wolves, herds of elk and deer, roaming the hills of our community; giant condors and bald eagles gliding along; butterflies too varied and numerous to count; steelhead and coho salmon thick in the streams. Visualize the vegetation that had the hills green with native perennial grasses year round. Imagine the managed giant oak trees on the rolling hills and ridges, owned by Coast Miwok of Anamas, for their fecundity and reliability to provide food. All this was only 200 years ago, a measly amount of time in the grand geologic scheme.

In the past few months, I have witnessed several species of animals that I hadn't heard or seen for over a decade or at all. Providing habitat at my place is paying off. The native gray fox that was almost wiped out by a virus has returned after a twelve-year absence and there were three sightings in the last month in different locations. In July, two spotted owls were in the trees outside our house for over half an hour. I verified their calls and registered this sighting on the wonderful Cornell Bird website www.allaboutbirds.org

I saw a huge bald eagle nest and eagle in a snag at Point Reyes. This August, I saw an acorn woodpecker off our deck. Also living here are dozens of pine siskin, chickadees, pygmy nuthatch, bushtits, house finch, quail, juncos, bush bunnies, moles, voles, gray and red squirrels, wood rats, deer mice, red shouldered hawks, great horned owls, grosbeak, and stellar and blue jays. Although hard to watch, when the red-shouldered hawk snags an unwanted Norwegian rat, the food web is complete. Bats dive over our house for mosquitoes, may flies and gnats. (I have 4 bat houses.) Animals provide a quantifiable ecosystem service. Similarly, many native plants in our community have medicinal and food uses.

Last October, Mill Valley StreamKeepers did a survey of 11 pools in the lower watershed that we share. In those pools we found dozens of steelhead salmonids including accounts of large specimens in Cascade Canyon. These current survey data numbers are down over 95% from 1946-2010.

While all these sightings are good indicators, the fact remains that most species are in decline. According to the National Marine Fisheries Service division of NOAA, locally extinct Coho salmon are in an extinction vortex in California. As I head off to yet another conference of dedicated individuals whose purpose is to restore riparian (river) habitats and hydrologic functionality to watersheds, I am reminded that we are all in this together. Our daily actions influence whether other species can survive with us. Everything is prey for something else except humans. Inadvertently killing food sources through habitat loss, development, poisoning or polluting can wipe out an entire biotic system of animals and plants. These incremental affects on the ecosystems are cumulative.

After the Smart Meter installation I noticed significant impacts in our yard, I have been involved in researching the impacts of Smart Meters on humans and animals. Over 5,000 studies have revealed that the impacts are signif-

icant. For many animals, like bats, bees, birds and salmonids the radio frequencies that emanate from these devices are wreaking havoc with their navigation capabilities. I had my electric meter tested and that showed electromagnetic spikes and the gas one was removed for being inaccurate. Before you allow the installation of these meters, please educate yourself. One local group, The Alliance for Human Health, has a website: <http://www.allianceheh.org/>.

For further information: Please contact me.

- Laura Chariton laurachariton@comcast.net.



Bus Service in the Neighborhood

Marin Transit would like to remind riders of the availability of The Stage coming through our neighborhood. Call

Composting / Recycling / or Real Garbage?

I like to multi task, and yesterday as I exercised my quads, deltoids, biceps and triceps pushing the blue Mill Valley Refuse recycle bin up my driveway for the Thursday AM pickup, it occurred to me that confusion reigns in the minds of many ecologically conscientious citizens of the mountain. Just what can be put into the blue can (which now may be brown) and the green can? And what is left over to put into the garbage can?

So here's some helpful information:

The blue / brown recycle can is for mixed paper, cardboard, juice containers, glass bottles (not broken) and empty jars, empty plastic containers labeled 1 – 7 with the triangle icon, empty and relatively clean metal containers. However, don't make the mistake of tossing in the following:

- DO NOT recycle caps and lids (especially plastic), bottle and jar lids.
- And (**now pay attention here**) DO NOT put plastic bags into the recycle bin. DO NOT put foam items in. Even if you see a recycle icon on it and it seems like a logical place for them, our refuse company cannot process this material.
- Plastic bags and the caps, lids, broken glass, and aforementioned items go into *real* garbage unless you can figure out a way to reuse them. But then you have to use your creative talents to reuse them or send them on to a place

where they can be reused. I've taken to collecting the plastic bags and dropping them off at Safeway, where there is a collection spot in front of the store.

(continued on page 5)

The green can is for all those food scraps: the well-aged leftovers hiding on the back of your refrigerator, expired food items on your pantry shelves, steak bones you were going to give to your dog (but you don't have a dog), sea-food and shellfish remains (your cat will be mad), coffee grounds and the filters, tea bags, paper take-out boxes, moldy cheese and deli meats, cheese and oil drenched pizza boxes, cupcake papers.

Include your yard trimmings, the black spot leaves and stems from your roses, and the orchid plant that hasn't bloomed for five years (It probably isn't going to.) Knowing that all of these once-upon-a-time garbage items will be going to a processing plant to be composted gives me a feeling of peace with nature. I've even taken to wrapping the scraps in newspaper before adding them to the collection can I keep in the kitchen. The good news is that compost needs the paper to help make really rich 'new' soil. And paper helps to keep any unpleasant odors from developing. Am I becoming obsessive??

A warning—Don't place the green compost can where the raccoons can climb on top of it. They are smart enough to open the green lid and will invite their friends to join in the feast.

Don't put these items in the green can: Plastic of any kind (even so-called biodegradable, liquids, glass, metal, rocks, pet waste or diapers, NO FOAM. Mill Valley Refuse Service will empty this can each week, full or partially filled. They will even remove a bungee cord if you've used one to deter the pesky raccoons.

The REAL Garbage:

At this point there should be almost nothing left for the REAL garbage can. Remember when you used to jam it full of everything and then tied the lid on to keep the raccoons out? You can now put behind you the chore of gathering up all the spilled garbage those critters often scattered about after culling tasty treats from your can.

Just put all the 'Don'ts' items into REAL garbage. Plastic is probably one of the worst culprits to our environment. Try to use less. The conundrum I face is the ease and convenience of plastic. But with a little effort, most of the waste we generate can be removed from landfill.

I saved money changing out my old, dented 45-gallon garbage can for a shiny new 20-gallon can. The collection fee for a 20-gallon can is less. Just let MVRS know to lower the fee when you get your new can.

More information is available on the MVRS web site:
www.millvalleyrefuse.com.

Hope article this has not be a WASTED effort!
- Susan Johnson

Another Septic System For Our Neighborhood.

Well, my good friends on Panoramic Highway, Scott McBirnie and Derrick Chan, couldn't wait any longer for the possibility of a sewer system being added to the community. Their septic-repairs permit was running out. (The sewer committee, of which I'm a member, has slowed down its activities this summer since a majority of homeowners haven't wanted to move forward with a sewer system . . . at this point. All this will be discussed again at 7:00 PM on September 15th.) County Supervisor Kinsey will facilitate the meeting, again; see his letter to the community on page 1. Rebecca Ng, Chief of the County's Environmental Health Services will join him to share pertinent information.

Talking with Scott and Derrick about repairing their septic system was instructive. Over the last three years, they discovered that their old system was much more in need of repair than anyone anticipated. Though they describe themselves as "highly involved" clients, they hired a septic engineer and were soon glad they had. The peculiarities of their roadside/hillside property presented many challenges. Their *core* and *perk* tests indicated special septic requirements, and they needed a *plan* and *stake-out* approvals as well as later tests and approvals of their tank and leech lines. These processes were complicated and would probably not have been accomplished without the technical assistance of the septic engineer.

They explored three alternative septic systems, choosing the Advantex system from Orenco. This is a sophisticated, new system that has only been approved for our neighborhood during the last 18 months. It is especially suited to the challenges of our mountain neighborhood. Laura Chariton, who opposes the building of a sewer system, recently hosted at the MWPCA Community Center an excellent presentation by the representatives of Orenco. Their presentation was respectfully interactive. They made the chemistry and biology of septic systems understandable for me (something my high school teacher couldn't do.) Their handouts were good, including the pamphlet *Septic Systems Owner's Manual*. Orenco's cost estimates, according to the actual experience of Scott and Derrick, were only slightly understated. In their case, the system was only a little more expensive than the estimates made for the cost of a sewer system.

In summary, Scott and Derrick offer this advice: be sure you get a septic engineer and an installation contractor who are familiar with the neighborhood and the County's people. (They will enthusiastically recommend the ones they used, and to whom they are genuinely thankful.) "Remember," they say, "it's not just technology; it's a human process, too. Both are challenging and required experienced facilitation."

- Bill Daniels

Want to contribute to the Lookout?

Our Lookout Issues are filled with contributions from neighbors. If you'd like to share something, just contact me with a suggestion about your idea. Typically, articles run 500 words. Photographs are always welcome and enrich our reading. Send ideas to:
lilasd@aol.com

Neighborhood Directory Finally in Process

Lila Daniels and Carol Stern are working away on the new directory. The 2005 Green Directory is seriously outdated. So, this will be the new replacement. Since people rely more and more on emails, they're hoping to get even more email addresses before they go to press.

Starting in 2012, the Lookout will only be published via emails and will be posted on the MWPCA website: www.mounttam.org. (People may subscribe to a print version at an extra cost.)

So, there's still time to be included. We would like:

Name/s
Address
Phone #/s
Email/s

Send info to Lila Daniels at:
lilasd@aol.com

Having your name on the email distribution list will allow for faster turnaround on upcoming dates. For example, there wasn't time this issue to include information about the recycling event that's happening August 27-28th.

Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival Fund Raising Project, September 24-25

Keith Papulias is chairing the event again this year with Harold Dittmer's assistance. Keith contributes his equipment and condiments (his Pappy's seasoning is popular).

If you'd like to volunteer to help—set-up and teardown, food purchase, taking orders, grilling tri-tips and sausages, and assembling sandwiches.



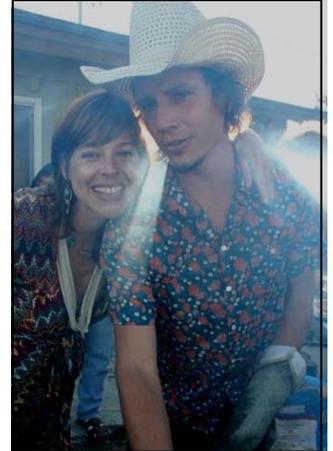
Everyone who "works" a shift is admitted free for the day. Speaking from experience, this is a great community event AND great fun while being helpful.

To sign up, call Lila Daniels at 819-0845. Time slots between 11:00—2:00 PM are needed most.

Jazz Fest & BBQed Oyster Feast Sunday, October 9, 1:00 PM—Sunset

This popular fund-raising event for children's activities is happening again. Come along and bring your friends for a wonderful afternoon enjoying good food and music while hanging out with your neighbors at the MWPCA Clubhouse. (The Blue Angels will be flying by during the afternoon as an added bonus.)

John Lovell, shown here with a friend, is organizing this annual event. If you haven't attended, be sure to come this year.



Menu:

Drakes Bay oysters
Lagunitas beer
Probably jambalaya

Jazz provided by:

Art Lewis Band

and

The Hot House

(our mountain neighbors,
the Richardsons)

Donations are happily accepted to help fund all our children's activities.

For more information: contact John Lovell
golfodulce@yahoo.com

Children's Pumpkin Carving Party October 30th, 3—5 PM

For more information contact Jennifer Sheetz who is in charge of children's activities this year: 383-3185

Also, mark you calendar for the Children's Holiday Party on December 17th from 3—5 PM.



Along Panoramic Highway

Oct. 21, 1928. Mt. Tamalpais is designated a state park. Automobiles have replaced trains as the way to get around the mountain for those who choose not to make the hike from Mill Valley. The Dias toll road between what is now Highway 1 and Four Corners is a thing of the past. Panoramic Highway becomes a reality.

According to Barry Spitz' chockablock-full-of-local-lore book, *Mill Valley: The Early Years*, William Kent had acquired much of the land that is now Panoramic with the idea it would be used as a railway extension. But even by 1913, the talk had switched from rail to automobile. Conservationists fearing development tried to block the road (apparently the reason for creation of MWPCA's predecessor organization) but, although they were able to delay construction, they were ultimately unsuccessful.

Today, Panoramic Highway is the main thoroughfare – especially on weekends – to the many trailheads on Mt. Tam, to the Mountain Play, to Stinson Beach, to the Mountain Home Inn and to the homes of the 300 or so residents who live on the mountain.

As part of the Lookout's occasional series on MWPCA neighborhoods, here are peeks into the lives of residents of 200-something on that historic roadway:

The devotion of **Brian Ashe and his wife Cynthia Rigatti** to Marin's open spaces, including those right out their back door looking to the ocean and Muir Woods, can be seen in a tradition started a decade ago. Each year for their anniversary gift to each other, they buy a piece of art at the Marin Agricultural Land Trust's (MALT) annual fundraiser. The art is always of a MALT-protected land. The purchase goes towards further protecting open space and giving them a beautiful reminder of where they live.

They have raised their two children, Lauren and Thomas, on the mountain. "We wanted them to be closer to the trails and open space," says



Brian, a lawyer. He can look fondly on his childhood riding his bike in his cul-de-sac with neighborhood kids, but, "on balance, it's not an issue," especially when he and his son can return from a run and hear the screech of a hawk and find a bobcat – "a really large, mature male bobcat" – in their yard.

John Thomas bought his house on Panoramic in 1992 without having ever set foot in it. The view was right. The estate sale price was right. He got a great neighbor, "a hard-smoking, hard-drinking lesbian" who had built a house for herself and, next door, a house for her sister.



John ended up buying the house where her sister had lived. The neighbor, Fran, had planted eucalyptus, pines and spruce on the properties. "She was wild. She was quite a character," John recalls. When she died, she left her house to her housekeeper.



Arlene Hoffman, a native New Yorker, was doing her residency in podiatry in New York and Georgia "and all I could think about was coming back to Mt. Tam." She had been in the Bay Area for post-doc work at Stanford earlier. "The mountain is just peace to me. The

mountain is where my soul flies, where I want to have my ashes scattered. It's where I keep my sanity." At first, she rented and remembers Wednesday night volleyball games at the clubhouse. Then, when she could afford it, she bought a house in Muir Meadows and, finally, in 1989, she bought her house on Panoramic. An internationally recognized foot and ankle physician, she hikes, is a regular at the astronomy nights on the mountain and rides and jumps at Miwok Stables. "I wouldn't live anywhere else," she says.

It's hard to miss the house on Panoramic owned by **Mark Reuben**, proprietor of galleries featuring vintage sports and history photographs in Sausalito and San Francisco. He also promotes bike rentals and tours. Canvases of his enterprises adorn the fence in front of his house. "It's kind of like they drive by and remember the place," Reuben says. As for living on the mountain: "It's a place to get away from the craziness of the world."

- Diane Curtis

Knitters: "Mt. Tam Purls"

4th Wednesday of the Month, 3:00—5:00 PM

There is now a group of about 7 regulars who get together and share projects and tips .bringing everything from knitting to mending to new quilts. Group members host the group at their homes. Come join the group. To receive reminders contact Lila Daniels at lilasd@aol.com for meeting locations and to get on the email distribution list.

Neighbors

Henry Richardson is in Singapore for a one year internship with an architectural firm. He's living on the edge of Singapore's equivalent to Muir Woods, the tropical version. When hiking he sees monkeys, turtles, monitor lizards, vines, huge leafed plants. He says the forest is noisy with insects and birds. It's mighty hot and humid there; the day/night lengths are always equal, never changing, 'cause he's so close to the equator. And when it rains, it POURS!

Alison Shapiro: On August 26, at the Saybrook University graduation of its College of Psychology and Humanistic Studies, Alison Shapiro will be awarded an honorary PhD, a Doctorate of Humane Letters, and will give the commencement address. The award is both for her work with stroke survivors and their support networks and for her efforts in helping Saybrook Graduate School revitalize itself and become Saybrook University. Saybrook is a San Francisco based graduate university granting masters and PhDs in a variety of areas including humanistic psychology, organizational systems, human science, leadership and the first (and only) fully accredited degrees in Mind Body Medicine in the United States. Saybrook's website is www.saybrook.edu

Bob Scheibach recently turned 90 years old. Congratulations, Bob, and carry on. What a handsome and fit example you are for the rest of us. What's your secret?!

Calling All Neighborhood Artists for 2012 Week End Open Studios

Etta Deikman and Lila Daniels have been thinking . wouldn't it be enlightening to meet with and view the artistic work of our neighbors?

Painters, ceramicists, photographers, sculptors, mixed media artists of all ages are all welcome to participate.

The preliminary plan is to have a Saturday event during 2012 in which people drop by the clubhouse to :

- Have coffee/tea
- View representative samples of participating artists' work, and
- Collect a map with directions to the open studios.

For now, all you artists, please contact Etta or Lila to express your interest in sharing your creative work. Then, they'll take it from there.

Etta Deikman: 383-2198



What's with the Flags?

That's the question we've been getting from neighbors we know well, neighbors with whom we're just friendly, and even total strangers.

What is it about flags that so readily capture the imagination? Is it because they say so much in such a compact way? Is it because they're the perfect combination of message, colors, and movement? How can a mere 3-foot by 5-foot swatch of fabric instill so much loyalty or hatred, inspiration or loathing, pride or fear? How can someone attach so much to a symbol that they would die to protect it?

That's the reason we're just so fascinated with our flags. When we decided to first fly the colors, it started with a patriotic Fourth of July about 15 years ago. Then we thought, we both studied high school French, we should fly the Tricolor. Then a nearby store was going out of business and was selling their entire inventory. Some of that inventory was flags of the American Revolution. Then we thought we should fly the flags of friends who were visiting, say for dinner. It was a great way for them to identify our home and to hail them from afar, a beacon of welcome and familiarity.

It kind of got out of hand from there . We now have flags of countries we've visited and some we hope to in the future. Our collection includes flags that caught our eye, touched our hearts, or resonated with our political beliefs. We have flags that say we're mourning, we're celebrating, we support you or we wish you well.

Since moving to the mountain, we've waited patiently to finally install a flagpole. The flag we fly each day means something, celebrates someplace or someone or an event somewhere. Sometimes it's just a "hello-how do you do?" to someone we love. Sometimes it's an anniversary with meaning to the citizens of another country or just one couple we know. Oftentimes it's a holiday celebrated by a people thousands of miles away, a way of bringing them into our lives and sharing our common humanity.

We've proudly flown the San Francisco Giants flag, the Norwegian flag to honor the innocents recently massacred. We've flown the Mexican flag by request from the guys working on our septic system and the Tibetan flag on the Dalai Lama's birthday. On La Paz Day, it was the Bolivian flag and on King Sobhuza's birthday, the flag of Swaziland. Independence Day in Ecuador, August 10, Pakistan the 14th, Columbia the 20th, and Liberation Day for South Korea the 15th. When our neighbors Janey and Zack had their second child, we welcomed Leo to our community with the lion flag of Sri Lanka.

So when you drive by and happen to look up at the flags, we hope it brings a smile to your face. It may remind you of something that happened a world away and centuries ago. It may remind you of a tragedy that happened in another state just the day before. Perhaps you'll recall a joyous celebration of freedom in a troubled land finally free of tyranny and despair.

Or just maybe you'll just see a pretty piece of fabric fluttering in our clean mountain air.

- Derrick Chan

Mountain Lion Sightings



Annie (10) and Katie (8) Blackadar on Upper Washington Park saw a mountain lion in February at 4:00 in the afternoon walking up our road. (Neighbor Anita Murphy (next door) and her friend Vidal first saw and heard it in August 2010. Other sightings have been in February and March this year. Vidal has heard it growling several times, once at the end of July this year. I don't want anyone to get

surprised or hurt by the cat.

Here are some the names of people and numbers to call:

- Emergencies call 911 and report it to the sheriff's office (they are first responders and are supposed to call the Southern Marin Game Warden from the Fish and Game Dept, who will come down from Petaluma, if it decides to hang out for awhile. I called the Sheriff's Business Office at 332-5422 one time to report one of the incidences after the fact, just to have it on record.
- CA Department of Fish and Game is the overseeing agency for mountain lions.
- If you call the Humane Society or Wildcare, they take the report and pass on the message, but they also tell you to call the Fish and Game Department directly.
- Our area is under the jurisdiction of both a Fish and Game Wildlife Biologist and a Game Warden who want to be contacted directly about any local sightings.
John Krause, Wildlife Biologist: 415/454-8050
Warden: try 707/944-5500 and 707/944-5531
- State Park Ranger Thomas Frazier: 388-3653 so far is the only person that came to look at our properties. He said, "Yep, this looks like prime mountain lion habitat to me!" (The rangers in charge of our local State Parks also would like to know of any local activity, since this is their backyard, too.)

Without diligence in reporting incidents, Fish and Game assumes the cat is just passing through once or twice. In my experience it is important to keep calling all the different agencies ourselves with new sightings, since the agencies don't always communicate with each other.

Recommendations to be taken seriously:

- Set up a camera outside to prove that we are seeing a mountain lion
- Make our properties less attractive to wildlife

Since Vidal saw the lion twice with a raccoon in its mouth, and since deer are supposed to be their first choice of food, it's wise to secure your trash cans and remove fallen fruit from the ground that the deer eat. That will help keep the wildlife food chain away from our residences.

- Susan Van Hise



Come Join Us!

Notice our New Bar Menu Hours

Breakfast, Wednesday – Sunday 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Lunch, Wednesday – Sunday 11:30 am – 3:00 pm

Dinner, Wednesday – Sunday 5:30 pm – 8:45 pm

Bar Menu, Wednesday to Sunday 3:30 – 7:00 pm

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Musings

I am 80 years old,
An unbelievable number,
It arrives with a cane,
And a face I don't recognize.

I used to be handsome,
Now my mirror shows me
An old guy, one of those
I never thought I'd be.

Yet, inside, the light of my mind
Still shines, still bright
Though I clutch at memories,
And names drop into an abyss,
It is not always so,
Sometimes, like Proust,
Combray rises and carries me away.

- Arthur Deikman

Progress in the Park

A new boardwalk will go in this fall, from the popular cross-cut to the Pinchot Tree (the Ocean View Trailhead stays open making it possible for neighbors to hike in PLUS easily check out this project!). In addition to healthier soil for the redwoods, the boardwalk continues efforts to make the path accessible and safe. Funding comes from our profitable concession, the Muir Woods Trading Company.

Muir Woods in the movies...do you recognize the forest in *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*? This Hollywood blockbuster plays up the special side of the redwoods and was inspired by a walk here, AND it is drawing the crowds. Fortunately, many are taking the shuttle!

- Mia Monroe,
Muir Woods Site Supervisor

Yoga on the Mountain

Sutat continues teaching our evening yoga classes beginning at 6:30 PM every Wednesday.



Sutat's teaching style introduces beginners in a safe and uncomplicated manner, while encouraging seasoned practitioners to move deeper into postures.

The focus on breathing brings benefits at all levels. Sutat brings over 25 years experience in the mind/body arts, including over a decade spent in Asia studying with the masters.

Many people remember him from his years spent at Rancho La Puerta Spa, where he taught yoga as well as meditation and Tai Chi. Living on the mountain, he is thrilled to bring his teaching to the neighborhood.



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Keith says this is a great time to decide whether to refinance your home. Interest rates are at record lows—low 4s into the 3s. Give him a call to discuss possibilities at 383-0269.

Thank you, Kathleen, for the quarterly real estate updates!



Kathleen Delehanty

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415/755-8300 or Kathleen4re@yahoo.com

ACTIVE		
2 Forest Way	3/2	\$ 819,000
192 Adams	1/1	879,000
740 Edgewood	4/4.5	2,999,000
CONTINGENCY / CONTINUE TO SHOW		
628 Amaranth	3/3	\$ 969,000
10 Walsh Drive	4/4.5	2,795,000
880 Edgewood	3/3	3,590,000
SOLD		
370 Panoramic	3/2.5	\$ 600,000
9 Ridge Ave	3/2	815,000
580 Edgewood	4/3.5	1,631,000
LOTS / ACTIVE		
84 Washington Pk	.22 acre	\$125,000
Redwood	.689 acre	249,000
CONTINGENCY / CONTINUE TO SHOW		
360 Panoramic	.23 acre	\$230,000
SOLD		
650 Edgewood	.287 acre	\$70,000

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Lookout Alert: The 4th issue this year will come to you in print form for sure

Starting in 2012 distribution will be primarily via email. If you haven't already done so, please email your email address/es to Harold Dittmer at: hdittmer@sbcglobal.net

Those of you wishing to continue receiving a hard copy will be asked to pay an additional fee (not yet determined.) Lookouts will also appear on our website: <http://www.mounttam.org> and in color!

THE LOOKOUT

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Webmaster	Diane Curtis
Tech Consultant	Peter Spear: 383-1842
Parenting	Jennifer Sheetz: 383-3185
Sewer Committee	Lynn Hindley

Community Calendar - see online for updates www.mounttam.org

SEPTEMBER

7:00 PM	8	Board Meeting
3:00 PM	28	Mt. Tam Purls
All Day	24/ 25	MV Fall Arts Fest Fund Raiser

OCTOBER

1:00 PM	9	Jazz Fest
7:00 PM	13	Board Meeting
3:00 PM	26	Mt. Tam Purls
3:00 PM	30	Kid's Pumpkin Carving

NOVEMBER

7:00 PM	11	General Meeting/Election
3:00 PM	16	Mt. Tam Purls

Clubhouse Available for Rent

Rates, rules, forms, calendar and all information about what is included are on the website: <http://www.mounttam.org>. Special member discounts.